

Comments for perchlorate conference
Announcement of Region 9 Superfund Team Award

My name is Catherine McCracken and I am with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 Office which is based in San Francisco. The Region 9 Office covers the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and the U.S. Territories islands. There are several other Region 9 representatives participating in this perchlorate conference who you will meet in a moment. We are glad to see such a good turnout for this conference and welcome you to Region 9 if you are visiting Ontario from other parts of the country.

I am here to make an announcement about a Region 9 award. Since many of the people who are being recognized by this award are not located in Region 9 itself but are here at the conference, we thought it would be appropriate to take a couple of minutes to acknowledge them in person.

A couple of months ago I was pleased to submit a nomination for the Superfund Team of the Year Award. In this nomination I named the EPA and other Department of Defense employees who have been working together to address issues related to perchlorate contamination in the environment. Although I am a relative newcomer to Region 9 I have learned some key things about working on an emerging issue such as perchlorate...the work is always challenging and often stressful, but despite that it can be extremely rewarding. I have also learned that sometimes it is important to take a moment to recognize someone for their commitment, their professionalism, and their caring about doing their work well. It was an honor to nominate these individuals and I was excited to learn that the staff of the Superfund Division of Region 9 who vote on this award agreed with my suggestion.

I also want to recognize Region 9 Regional Administrator Felicia Marcus and Region 9 Superfund Division Director Keith Takata for their leadership in allowing the Region 9 staff who work on perchlorate to do so and for their foresight in informing other EPA regional offices and programs across the country about perchlorate, and the need for them to determine if perchlorate is an issue of concern in their region.

The individuals that I will name are located throughout the country, and in my opinion, have made an extraordinary commitment to work together, to think creatively and beyond the boundaries of their particular region/division/function, and to honestly involve stakeholders throughout the process. Those with significant involvement on the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee and additional individuals are continuing this important work on an issue which potentially affects millions of people.

The following individuals will be recognized at a Superfund Awards ceremony in San Francisco on April 14, 1999 for their exceptional team efforts, their effectiveness in complex coordination and negotiation, their initiative in using innovative technologies, techniques or processes, and their successes in community involvement and outreach. As I read their names, if they could please stand....

From the U.S. EPA Region 9 office...

Andy Bain, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Charles Berry, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Larry Bowerman, Waste Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Paula Bruin, OCGR Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Clarence Callahan, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Mitch Kaplan, Waste Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Ben Machol, Water Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Lewis Maldonado, Office of Regional Counsel Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Kevin Mayer, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Stephen Pia, EPA-NERL, Las Vegas, NV
Wayne Praskins, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Vicky Semones, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Stan Smucker, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Dan Stralka, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA
Carmen White, Superfund Division Region 9, San Francisco, CA

From other U.S. EPA Regional Offices and U.S. EPA Headquarters...

Peter Grevatt, OSWER, Washington, DC
Annie Jarabek, EPA-National Center for Environmental Assessment, RTP, NC
Mike Osinski, OGWDW, Washington, DC
Rachel Sakata, OGWDW, Washington, DC
Mark Sprenger, EPA-OERR, Edison, NJ
Linda Tuxen, National Center for Environmental Assessment, Washington, DC

Ed Urbansky, EPA-National Risk Management Research Laboratory,
Cincinnati, OH

David Vanlandingham, EPA-Region 6, Dallas, TX

From the Department of Defense...

Larry Glidewell, U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH

Jim Hurley, U.S. Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL

Cornell Long, U.S. Air Force, Brooks Air Force Base, TX

David Mattie, U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH

Ron Porter, U.S. Air Force, Brooks Air Force Base, TX

Dan Rogers, U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH

David Tsui, U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH

Please join me in acknowledging the USEPA's Region 9 Superfund Team of the Year....

I would also like to ask those who are involved with the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee from other Federal agencies, state agencies and tribes to stand. These individuals are also working toward resolving the many questions that we have about perchlorate and I would also like to acknowledge their contributions to the perchlorate issues.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the conference....